



DURHAM COUNTY

Episodic Descriptions, Season Two

Episode 1 - Little Lost Children

Newly promoted homicide detective Mike Sweeney struggles to keep his head above water. His family has been torn apart by serial killer Ray Prager, who's now in lockdown after murdering two women and traumatizing (perhaps raping) Mike's teenage daughter Sadie. Though Sadie denies Ray physically assaulted her, Ray has said otherwise and her rebellious behavior has Mike uneasy that she may be keeping secrets. Already hanging on by a thread, the family is dealt another blow when Audrey, Mike's wife, announces that she wants a divorce, leaving Maddie, Mike's youngest daughter, detached and furious and blaming Sadie. Meanwhile at work, Mike deals with what seems to be a homicide involving the death of a baby. He brings on a forensic psychiatrist, Pen Verrity to help him understand the murder, but he's already decided that the mother (Elodie) is the killer, and he's going to do whatever he has to, to get her. It's his guilt over his failure to save Sadie that drives him, and when he and Pen come across Elodie revisiting the scene of the crime, Mike's buried rage is unleashed and he stops her cold and breaks her ankle. Pen Verrity sees it all, but his violence seems to her the just punishment for a bad mother. Just like Mike, Pen is driven by guilt for the drowning death of her autistic daughter just months before. She's also going through a difficult and messy divorce. Their mutual loneliness, anger and pain brings them together sexually, and when Pen offers to treat Sadie privately, to get to the bottom of the young girl's trauma and help her prepare for trial, the bond between the two is strengthened. But it's clear that Pen is deeply troubled herself. When teaching her young son to swim, she suffers a psychotic break and he almost drowns. And when later in the lockdown, called to the young mother's aid, she helps Elodie in a way that could qualify as murder.

Episode 2 - Ray Loves Sadie True

Elodie, the young mother, has killed herself. That's bad, but worse is Mike's discovery that Elodie is not a murderer. According to the pathologist, her baby's death was accidental, the result of a bee sting. As Mike tries to deal with his tragic mistake, Internal Affairs and a reporter scrutinize his actions. There's a missing surveillance DVD that's incriminating as hell; Glenn, Mike's old pal and the new guy on the force, has pocketed it, and offers it to Mike along with a promise of silence. But as Mike decides what exactly he's going to do with it, Sadie gets hold of it and sees just how far her dad went, how brutal he can be. Fears of his violence, fears that Ray may have been genuine when he insinuated that Mike was no different than he, start to surface in her thoughts and her dreams, fears she's not quite ready to trust to Pen in her therapy. Meanwhile, Pen's husband Jonathan accuses Pen not only of trying to drown their son Mark, but also of killing their daughter Bonnie, going so far as to state those accusations to police. Mike's uneasy when he discovers that Pen visited Elodie the night of her suicide – she didn't tell him that. But Pen – and Sadie who's decided Pen's cool – quickly erase any misgivings. Mike discovers that Audrey's got a new man, and does everything he can to rekindle their relationship and remove the competition. Pen feels him pulling away from her and as her despair and loneliness threaten to overwhelm her, she orchestrates a plan to get rid of Audrey then lies to Mike, telling him that Ray assaulted Sadie.

Episode 3 - The Fish in the Ocean

The drug overdose that Pen gave Audrey has caused more harm than Pen anticipated, and Pen, feeling guilty, is relieved to know that Audrey will be okay. She dispenses with the spiked chocolates, happy to find her bond with Mike has grown stronger. Back at home, she discovers that Jonathan has told the newspapers that Bonnie's death may be a homicide, that Pen is a murderer. At the precinct, Mike loses his temper when Glenn tells him Ray's pals have served up an alibi and got him off one of the murder charges. The trial's been moved up as a result, and the question of whether Sadie's ready for it causes Mike to explode. Distraught, he admits to Roxy, his supervisor, what he now believes: that Sadie was raped and lied about it. Meanwhile, Sadie continues her therapy with Pen and, told she "must face her fears," she returns to the scene of the crime and telephones Ray at the lockdown. He elaborates accusations he made there about Mike, suggesting Sadie's father is no different than he is, that he's a violent man who once upon a time also killed a woman. Sadie knows Mike is violent, she's seen that herself. Ray tells her who the victim was, a young girl named Lissie Alexie, but Mike denies knowing her. Jonathan sends Child Protective Services to pick up Mark in what seems to Mike to be a staged battle to gain custody. Mike takes Pen's side in it, and arrests Jonathan on suspicion of assault; humiliating him in the newspapers and delivering a warning that he stay away. But when Mike finds out that Pen attempted suicide after her daughter's death, and when Jonathan reminds him that no one's asked Mark what happened at the pool, Mike's uneasy. He pulls away from Pen long enough to ask a cop's questions, but she pricks his guilty conscience over Sadie, and he backs off. She has to defend herself now, and stages an assault that convinces both her son and Mike that Jonathan is violent. Jonathan, handcuffed, worries that Mark is in danger, pointing out that years ago when Pen was a child, her four brothers drowned in a boat accident. Mike, confirmed in his conviction that Jonathan is the abuser, feels he's betrayed Pen, and is now thoroughly committed to being her protector.

Episode 4 - Daddy Hurt Mommy?

Jonathan's "assault" on Pen encourages Mike to push further with the investigation. He wants to determine whether Jonathan harmed Bonnie, but to do that, Mike needs to exhume Bonnie's body, something Pen absolutely does not want to happen. Mike tries to respect that, pursuing other avenues of investigation, but his commitment to Pen is shaken when he discovers a fact that seems to confirm Tom's hypothesis that Bonnie was poisoned - not by Jonathan, but by her mother. When Mike and Tom question Pen about the circumstances surrounding Bonnie's death, Pen provides a reasonable enough explanation, but their suspicion and particularly Mike's doubts, bring her dangerously close to truths she's buried deep, and precipitate a psychotic break. Pen murders the woman who could betray her, Bonnie's former nanny, and Jonathan's lover, the woman who destroyed her marriage. Meanwhile, Sadie has caught her father in an intimate moment with Pen, and her trust in her father is tested again. She confronts Mike and later, Pen, but they both deny their relationship. Sadie entreats Ray Jr. to go see Ray and ask him about her father. Ray Jr. finally agrees to go, but Ray, as manipulative as ever, exploits the breach between Ray Jr. and his mother so that when Ray Jr. leaves, he's filled with compassion for good old dad. Pen, desperate, aware that she's losing her mind, sends Mark away with Jonathan then lies to Mike, telling him Mark's been kidnapped. Sadie reconnects with her father when he tells her that the boys who have been harassing her at school are the sons of the guys who alibied Ray. They're trying to keep her off the stand at Ray's trial. Sadie hypothesizes that Lissie's disappearance is connected to this, and suggests that if they can prove that, they'll be able to put Ray away as a dangerous offender. But then, when Pen bursts in with news of Mark's kidnapping, and Mike hurries off with her, Sadie's suspicions about their relationship are rekindled. Then she finds a piece of evidence in Mike's briefcase that confirms her suspicions that he may have been involved in Lissie's disappearance.

Episode 5 - Boys Do Things

Mike believes that Jonathan murdered Molly, and this puts him in conflict with Tom who's convinced that Pen did it and set up Jonathan. Sadie, intent on facing her fears so she can stand up at the trial, reenacts what happened between her and Ray at the farm. She gets through it with Ray Jr.'s help, but the discovery of a braid of hair buried within the walls of the farmhouse devastates her. The braid is Lissie's. Convinced that this

and the stolen file she found in Mike's briefcase are enough to prove her father is a murderer, Sadie confronts him then bolts when he again denies any involvement with Lissie. She goes to Pen and tells her that she's going to hand her evidence over to Tom. Pen, afraid that Sadie's accusations may have merit and could compromise Mike, sedates Sadie, and puts her in Bonnie's room. Pen's finally breaking, descending into a dangerous psychosis, as she comes face to face with what she's done. Tom's furious when the pathologist finds that Bonnie's death wasn't due to poisoning but to undiagnosed salt diabetes, but Mike has another hypothesis: that Pen knew her daughter was sick and let her die. He calls Sadie to warn her away from Pen, the ring of Sadie's cell phone rousing Pen from her psychosis just as she was about to administer a lethal dose of poison to Sadie. Mike's very suspicious now, wondering whether Pen had something to do with Audrey's mysterious illness, wondering too, if Pen was the woman a witness saw going into Molly's house on the day of her murder. Ray Jr. discovers that his father's mother killed herself; this, along with Ray's admission of remorse for what he's done, prompts Ray Jr. to tell his father that he loves him. Ray Jr. then makes a statement to police, painting Ray as a victim not a killer. Mike, suspecting Glenn is more involved with Ray than he is letting on, asks him to go see Ray and tell him they've found Lissie's body. Glenn is behind Ray, and Ray's not buying the story. Sadie leaves Pen's, set on telling Tom about her dad, but on her way to the station, Ray's pals force her into their car and take her up to the farm where they threaten and intimidate her, promising worse to come if she testifies. Glenn stops them from doing worse, giving Sadie a chance to run. She hides in the cornfield, watching as her father arrives. It appears to her that her dad may be involved with Ray's pals. Terrified that she's right, that her father is a murderer, Sadie calls Tom on her cell phone and begs him to make his way to the farm.

Episode 6 - Surviving the Fall

Tom arrives at the farm, responding to Sadie's frantic call for help. She refuses to acknowledge her father as she tells Tom that Mike and Ray murdered Lissie here. Lissie's braid smells of smoke and a nearby tree shows signs of fire. She digs beneath it, and finds a skull. At the station she waits for Pen and wonders whether the police will be able to connect Ray and the others to Lissie's murder. Will she ever get her justice? Mike tracks down Ray's guys and threatens to kill them if they come near Sadie again. When he returns to the station to reason with Sadie, she slashes herself with a knife. Mark and Jonathan are found, and Jonathan's going to be charged with murder, meaning Mark will go back to Pen. To protect Mark, Mike plans to make amends with Pen, play the happy couple, and perhaps leverage a confession. Tom is worried Pen will see through it but Mike knows Pen needs him, too much maybe, to care. As Pen consoles Sadie in the hospital, Mike meets with Glenn at the forensics excavation. Glenn tells him Lissie's story: how he watched Ray and his guys beat, rape and burn Lissie's body. Mike wants him to make a statement, but Glenn refuses. He reminds Mike how he came to him years before and told him between the lines that something had happened. Mike didn't do anything then and Glenn's not doing anything now. Meanwhile, Sadie is both too shaken to testify and betrayed when Ray Jr. tells her he's going to testify in his father's defense. Pen talks to Ray and tries to convince him to confess. Mike gives Ray Jr. a harsh lesson about his father at the morgue then returns to the hospital and Sadie. He tells her the truth - that he knew something had happened to Lissie, but he couldn't bring himself to look at it.

Sadie acknowledges her fear and vulnerability and stands up in court. Ray Jr., hearing her account, refuses to testify and asks that his statement be withdrawn, and Glenn, wanting to be a model to Ray Jr., comes clean to the court. Weeks after the trial, Mike is still involved with Pen and feels he is getting close to a confession. But Pen's onto his game and escapes surveillance and picks Mark up from school. When Mark rejects her, we fear she will kill him, but Pen is looking only for love and family. Denied that, and fully cognizant of her crime, she makes her own justice, and asks Ray to kill her. He does so, and escapes. Mike mourns her, fully aware of the life that drove her to kill her daughter and herself. Sadie receives a gift from Ray on her birthday - a gun, his version of love. Sadie knows it's not over.
